

REMARKS

Summary of the Office action

Claims 7, 9, 10, 83-87 and 89-93 are pending in the application.

Claims 7, 9, 10, 83-87 and 89-93 have been rejected as being indefinite.

Claims 7, 9, 10, 83-87 and 89-93 have been rejected as obvious over U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0065512 to Fjield et al. ("Fjield") (now U.S. 6,635,054) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,971,968 to Tu et al. ("Tu").

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 7, 9, 10, 83-87 and 89-93 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite.

Applicant has amended claims 7, 9, 10, 83-85, 87, and 89-93 to comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and to more closely reflect the structure disclosed in paragraphs [0133]-[0135] and FIG. 35 of the published application. Support for the amended claims is set forth in the foregoing portions of the published application.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the rejections based on indefiniteness are obviated in view of the amended claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 7, 9, 10, 83-87 and 89-93 have been rejected as obvious over U.S. Pub. No. 2002/0065512 to Fjield et al. ("Fjield") (now U.S. 6,635,054) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,971,968 to Tu et al. ("Tu").

Fjield does not disclose "a catheter having an ultrasonic transducer and a structural balloon, *the structural balloon sandwiched between first and second reflective balloons to form a first reflective interface at an interface between the structural balloon and the first reflective balloon and a second reflective interface at an interface between the structural balloon and the second reflective balloon*, the second reflective interface spaced apart from and directed towards the first reflective interface so as to form a window therebetween" as recited in claim 7 as amended.

The Office action states that “Fjield discloses an embodiment wherein the balloon includes a first reflective surface (1452) and a second reflective surface (1402)” (Office action, p. 4). However, claim 7 as amended calls for first and second reflective *interfaces*, not first and second reflective *surfaces* as disclosed in Fjield. To clarify the structural differences, an interface is where at least two balloons meet. As may be seen in FIG. 15 of Fjield below, the second reflective surface (1402) is within the first reflective surface (1452). Two or more balloons do not meet at these surfaces, and thus, they are not *interfaces*. Turning to FIG. 35 of the present application, structural balloon (1110) is sandwiched between first reflective balloon (1112) and second reflector balloon (1114). Structural balloon (1110) meets first reflective balloon (1112) at first reflective interface, and structural balloon (1110) meets second reflective balloon (1114) at second reflective interface. Thus, applicant submits that the structure of claim 7 as amended is not taught or disclosed in the prior art of record.

FIG. 15

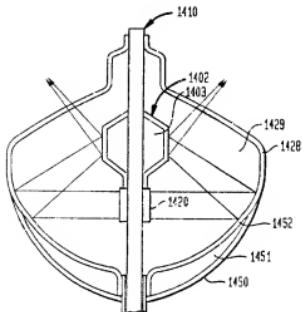
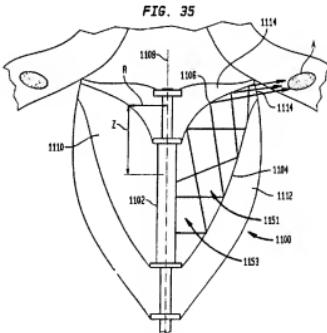


FIG. 35



This deficiency is not cured by Tu, alone or in combination with Fjield. Tu discloses a catheter having localized contrast media irrigation means for providing contrast media to the distal tip section (Tu, abstract). Tu neither teaches nor suggests “a catheter having an ultrasonic transducer and a structural balloon, the structural balloon sandwiched between first and second reflective balloons to form a first reflective interface at an interface between the structural balloon and the first reflective balloon and a second reflective interface at an interface between the structural balloon and the second reflective balloon, the second reflective interface spaced apart from and directed towards the first reflective interface so as to form a window therebetween.”

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are obviated in view of the amended claims and that the claims as amended are in condition for allowance.

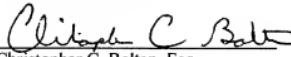
Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and remarks, the applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims patentably distinguish over the prior art, and requests the application be passed to issue. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned, if an interview could help expedite any remaining items.

No fees are believed due at this time. However, please charge any required fees, or credit any overpayments, to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 50-3013.

Respectfully submitted,

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 61,531
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